

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS

1. An optical disc apparatus comprising:

an optical pickup for reading out video image data recorded on the optical disc and outputting the video image data in the form of signals;

a decoder for decoding the video image data output by the optical pickup;

an input device having an operation key to give the optical disc apparatus an instruction to stop reproducing video images;

a non-volatile memory for storing a restart point equivalent to a stop point where the preceding reproduction was stopped using the operation key; and

a main controller for reading out the restart point from the non-volatile memory and controlling the optical disc apparatus so as to start reproducing video images from the restart point in starting reproduction processing; wherein

the optical disc apparatus can be connected to a network system which consists of a plurality of optical disc apparatus connected each other;

the optical disc apparatus further comprises an interface circuitry for communicating with other optical disc apparatus connected to the network system;

the input device has a referred memory choice key for designating a non-volatile memory to store the restart point;

when the non-volatile memory designated by the referred

memory choice key is its own non-volatile memory, the main controller makes its own non-volatile memory store the restart point, and in starting the reproduction processing, the main controller reads out the restart point from its own non-volatile memory and starts reproducing video images from the restart point; and

when the non-volatile memory designated by the referred memory choice key is a non-volatile memory of another optical disc apparatus, the main controller makes the designated memory store the restart point using the interface circuitry, and in starting the reproduction processing, the main controller reads out the restart point from the designated memory using the interface circuitry and starts reproducing video images from the restart point.

2. The optical disc apparatus in accordance with claim 1, wherein

the main controller makes the non-volatile memory designated by the referred memory choice key store the restart point related to the ID of the optical disc which was read out by the optical pickup, and in starting the reproduction processing, the main controller reads out the restart point related to the ID of the loaded optical disc from the designated memory and starts reproducing video images from the restart point.

3. The optical disc apparatus in accordance with claim 1, wherein

the input device further has a memory reference method choice key for choosing between a memory reference method that its own

non-volatile memory is referred to and a memory reference method that the designated non-volatile memory is referred to; and

when the memory reference method that the designated non-volatile memory is referred to is chosen using the memory reference method choice key, the main controller enables a user to designate a non-volatile memory to store the restart point using the referred memory choice key.

4. The optical disc apparatus in accordance with claim 2, wherein

the input device further has a memory reference method choice key for choosing between a memory reference method that its own non-volatile memory is referred to and a memory reference method that the designated non-volatile memory is referred to; and

when the memory reference method that the designated non-volatile memory is referred to is chosen using the memory reference method choice key, the main controller enables a user to designate a non-volatile memory to store the restart point using the referred memory choice key.

5. The optical disc apparatus in accordance with claim 2, further comprising a display device and wherein

the input device further has a restart point choice key for choosing the restart point of the optical disc; and

the main controller makes the non-volatile memory designated by the referred memory choice key store one or more restart points related to the ID of each optical disc, and in starting the reproduction

processing, the main controller reads out one or more restart points related to the ID of the loaded optical disc from the designated non-volatile memory, displays a list of the restart points read out from the designated non-volatile memory on the display device, and starts reproducing video images from the restart point chosen among the restart points displayed on the display device by the restart point choice key.

6. The optical disc apparatus in accordance with claim 5, wherein

the main controller makes the designated non-volatile memory store one or more restart points shown in thumbnail images which were related to the ID of each optical disc, and in starting the reproduction processing, the main controller displays a choice menu of the restart points shown in the thumbnail images on the display device.

7. The optical disc apparatus in accordance with claim 6, wherein

the input device further has a menu type choice key for choosing between a choice menu of the restart points shown in the thumbnail images and a choice menu of the restart points shown in time points; and

in starting the reproduction processing, the main controller displays the choice menu chosen by the menu type choice key on the display device.